

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 INT-05 /103 W

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P 242104Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6160

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 887

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, DR

SUBJ: GOLD: CENTRAL BANK'S COMMUNIQUE ON GODR INSPECTION OF
ROSARIO INSTALLATIONS

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 837, SANTO DOMINGO 809

1. A SUMMARY OF COMMUNIQUE CENTRAL BANK PUBLISHED IN LEADING
SANTO DOMINGO DAILIES LISTIN DIARIO AND EL CARIBE ON FEB 21
FOLLOWS:

A. CENTRAL MANK IS PREPARING FULL PUBLIC DECLARATION TO REFUTE
ANY FALSE INFORMATION PUBLISHED RECENTLY IN THE PRESS ABOUT
GOLD SHIPMENTS OF ROSARIO DOMINICANA. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW
OF OFFICIAL DECLARATION BY SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM QUOTE SOURCES THAT MERIT
ABSOLUTE CREDIT UNQUOTE THAT SOME IRREGULARITIES HAD OCCURRED IN
THE SHIPMENT OF GOLD BARS WHICH COINCIDE WITH SIMILAR FALSE
SPECULATIONS IN RECENT MORNING DAILIES, CENTRAL BANK IS REPLYING
PROVISIONALLY NOW.

B. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE NOW BEGINS TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THE OPERATIONS
OF ROSARIO DOMINICANA'S MINE IN PUEBLO VIEJO. THIS IS DUE
TO THE FACT THAT MINING LAW 146 OF 1971 HAS ALWAYS GIVEN FULL
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POWER IN MINING MATTERS TO THE SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND

COMMERCE AND SPECIFIC POWERS OF PROMOTING MINING DEVELOPMENT AND SAFEGUARDING THE NATIONAL INTEREST IN ALL MINING MATTERS TO THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MINES, A PART OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, UNDER ARTICLE 194 OF THE LAW.

C. THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY IRREGULARITIES ON PART OF CENTRAL BANK IN GOLD SHIPMENTS. COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR HAD BEEN REQUESTED DURING VISIT OF GENERAL MATOS' COMMISSION TO PROVIDE CENTRAL BANK DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE EXPORTATIONS OF ROSARIO DOMINICANA. DUE TO THE LACK OF A WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FOR SUCH INFORMATION, GOVERNOR REFUSED REQUEST BUT STATED HIS READINESS TO SUPPLY INFORMATION WHEN PROPER AUTHORIZATION WAS SHOWN.

D. CENTRAL BANK POINTED OUT THAT NEW NEWSPAPER SCANDAL ONCE AGAIN WAS OCCUPYING ITS VERY VALUABLE TIME, AND COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF THE SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THAT INSTITUTION OR AS A MEMBER OF THE MONETARY BOARD, HAD MAINTAINED FROM THE CENTRAL BANK THE READILY AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO PROVE THE FALSENESS OF THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITY.

2. COINCIDENT WITH CENTRAL BANK'S EXPLANATION OF ITS POSITION, SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ISSUED COMMUNIQUE THANKING ALL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS FOR COOPERATING IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ADQUACY OF SECURITY IN GOLD SHIPMENTS, ADDING THAT REGRETTABLY ONE INSTITUTION (MEANING THE CENTRAL BANK) HAD NOT COOPERATED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL BANK, REPORTS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, GOLD MINING, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTO00887
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0525
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760219/aaaaapyx.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANTO DOMINGO 837, 76 SANTO DOMINGO 809
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOLD: CENTRAL BANK'S COMMUNIQUE ON GODR INSPECTION OF ROSARIO INSTALLATIONS
TAGS: EMIN, EINV, DR, ROSARIO DOMINICANA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006